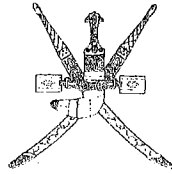


*Embassy of
The Sultanate of Oman
Washington, D.C.*



سفارة سلطنة عمان
واشنطن

March 3, 2006

The Honorable William M. Thomas
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2105

Dear Chairman Thomas:

This will provide a reply to your request regarding Oman's ability to adapt its labor rights regime in a manner similar to that which the Kingdom of Bahrain had committed in seeking Congressional approval of the U.S. - Bahrain Free Trade Agreement.

We have reviewed the correspondence between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Ambassador Portman regarding issues and commitments of the Kingdom with respect to its labor right regime. I have discussed these issues with the Minister of Industry and Commerce, H.E. Maqbool Ali Sultan, who has also conferred with the Minister of Manpower, H.E. Juma Al Juma. The Sultanate of Oman will:

1. Clarify its law that more than one Representative Committee may be formed in order to represent workers in their relations with a single enterprise.
2. Oman shall consult with the International Labor Organization and shall clarify that Representative Committees may belong to more than one federation.
3. The Ministry of Manpower will review remedies available to workers for unlawful termination of a worker for participating in a strike. In the event a legal preference for remedies is advisable and in compliance with I.L.O. standards, Oman will consider requiring reinstatement as the preferred remedy in such cases.
4. Oman shall continue to participate in consultations with the International Labor Organization to address and improve Oman's evolving labor rights regime, including further clarification of collective bargaining rules.
5. Oman will take steps to reduce government involvement in Representative Committee operations in order to conform to I.L.O. Convention 87.

Our review of the Bahrain commitments indicate that other representations made by Bahrain are not readily comparable with Oman's laws and practices. Nevertheless, if you believe otherwise, we will be pleased to further discuss these issues with you.

Sincerely,

Hunaina Al-Mughairy
Ambassador

CC: Angela Ellard; Majority Staff Director, Trade Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee